

REMARKS

At the outset, the Applicant wishes to thank Patent Examiner Nasser Ahmad for the many courtesies extended to the undersigned attorney during the Personal Interview on January 27, 2004, at the U.S.P.T.O. The substance of this Personal Interview is set forth in the Examiner Interview Summary, and in this Amendment.

The amendments to this patent application are as follows. The Specification is being amended on page 1 in order to correct a minor typographical error in the "Cross Reference To Related Applications." Also the Specification on page 5 is being amended to refer to "SEP" block copolymers and to define "SEP" to mean "styrene ethylene propylene". Also on page 5, a typographical error is being corrected.

The amendments to the claims are to amend independent claim 14 to recite that the first web and the second web is selected from the Markush group consisting of paper, metal foil, and non-woven fabric, which are nonplastic webs. Also claims 15,16,17,19,22,23 and 26 are being cancelled. In addition, claim 20 is being amended to revise its dependency such that it depends from independent claim 14, instead of cancelled claim 19.

Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested for

the rejection of the application on the basis of new matter under 35 U.S.C. 132. Because of the above-discussed amendment to page 5 of the Specification, the term "SEP" has been inserted back into the application. This term also was defined as "styrene ethylene propylene" in the Specification.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection under 35 U.S.C. 132 is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested for the rejection of claims 14,18, and 21-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by *Duncan*. Reconsideration and withdrawal are respectfully requested for the rejection of claims 14-26 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over *Pedginski* in view of *Duncan*.

The present invention is directed to a multilayer composite material, and process for the production thereof. There are two outer layers and two inner layers. These two inner layers are a layer of adhesive and a layer having release properties. These two outer layers are a first web and a second web. Each of the first web and the second web is selected from the Markush group consisting of paper, metal foils and non-woven fabric.

The *Duncan U.S. Patent No. 4,626,460* in column 1 lines 38 to 68 discloses a pressure sensitive label stock material in which the


facing layer, or substrate layer, is made from plastic.

In the *Pedginski U.S. Patent No. 5,807,632*, there is only one backing layer 20. In column 5 in lines 61 to 67, *Pedginski* teaches that the substrate may include non-thermoplastic materials. However this does not teach or suggest the two layers comprising the claimed first web and second web, each selected from the Markush group as claimed.

For all these reasons, none of the prior art references provide an identical disclosure of the claimed invention. Hence the present invention is not anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

In summary, claims 14 and 20 have been amended. Claims 15,16,17,19,22,23, and 26 have been cancelled. In view of these amendments, it is firmly believed that the present invention, and all the claims, are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103 over all the prior art applied by the Patent Examiner. Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested. A prompt notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

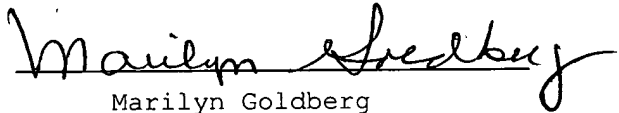
Respectfully submitted,
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